

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7859–S7896

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2195–2203, and S. Res. 349. **Page S7891**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “America’s Aging Workforce: Opportunities and Challenges”. (S. Rept. No. 115–191) **Page S7891**

House Messages:

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act: By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 306), Senate insisted on its amendment to H.R. 1, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, agreed to the requested conference with the House thereon, and the Chair was authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, after taking action on the following motions to instruct conferees proposed thereto:

Pages S7859–7879, S7891

Adopted:

Rubio Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that any conference report shall increase the refundable per-child tax credit to no less than \$2,000 and that the credit be expanded to benefit more low-wage parents. **Pages S7880–81**

Rejected:

By 48 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 307), King Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report not increase the Federal budget deficit for the period of fiscal years 2018 through 2027. **Pages S7878–79**

By 44 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 308), Stabenow Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report includes a provision causing the corporate tax rate to revert to 35 percent in the event that real average household wages do not increase by at least \$4,000 by 2020 as a result of the enactment of the bill. **Page S7879**

By 47 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 309), Booker Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report does not contain any provisions that would increase the number of individuals who

do not have health insurance or increase health insurance premiums. **Pages S7880–81**

Urban Indian Health Parity Act—Referral Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2146, to extend the full Federal medical assistance percentage to urban Indian organizations, and the bill then be referred to the Committee on Finance. **Page S7895**

Bodine Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Susan Parker Bodine, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; that there be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S7895**

Balash Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 11:45 a.m., on Thursday, December 7, 2017, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Joseph Balash, of Alaska, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, as under the order of Tuesday, December 5, 2017. **Pages S7895–96**

Messages from the House: **Page S7891**

Measures Referred: **Page S7891**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S7891**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S7891**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S7891**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7891–92**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7892–95**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7890–91**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7895**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S7895**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—309) **Pages S7878–79, S7881**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:46 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7896.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of R. D. James, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

SUPERFUND AND WASTE CLEANUP FOLLOWING NATURAL DISASTERS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight concluded a hearing to examine challenges facing Superfund and waste cleanup efforts following natural disasters, after receiving testimony from Bryan W. Shaw, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Chairman, Austin; Matthew Rodriguez, California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary, Sacramento; and Tracy Hester, University of Houston Law Center, Houston, Texas.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1118, to reauthorize the North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1901, to require global economic and political pressure to support diplomatic denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, including through the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and any enablers of the activities of that Government, and to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 447, to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 150, recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of

the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance;

S. Res. 139, condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, with amendments; and

The nominations of Eric M. Ueland, of Oregon, to be an Under Secretary (Management), James Randolph Evans, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg, Kenneth J. Braithwaite, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, M. Lee McClenny, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay, Christopher Ashley Ford, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Security and Non-Proliferation), and Yleem D. S. Poblete, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Verification and Compliance), all of the Department of State, and Brock D. Bierman, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

COUNTERING TERRORISM IN NORTH AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism concluded a hearing to examine beyond ISIS, focusing on countering terrorism, radicalization, and promoting stability in North Africa, after receiving testimony from Nathan A. Sales, Ambassador-At-Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Bureau of Counterterrorism, and Joan Polaschik, Deputy Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of State.

DEFENDING THE HOMELAND AGAINST THE EVOLVING TERRORIST THREAT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine adapting to defend the Homeland against the evolving international terrorist threat, after receiving testimony from Mark E. Mitchell, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict; Lora Shiao, Acting Director of Intelligence, National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Nikki Floris, Deputy Assistant Director of Counterterrorism, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and Robin Taylor, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Intelligence Operations, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1870, to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime.